

The Connecticut General Assembly



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REP. COOK AND REP. WILLIS RECEIVE FRIEND OF THE FAMILY AWARD

On Monday, **Representatives Michelle Cook (D-Torrington) and Roberta Willis(D-Salisbury)** were awarded with the CT Family Resource Center Alliance's *Friend of the Family Award*. Each year the Alliance honors legislators based on their commitment and support to FRCs statewide.

"I am very honored and thankful to have received this award from the Connecticut Family Resource Center Alliance," Rep. Cook said. "This program provides families opportunities to enhance their children's school readiness and I will continue to stand by them and protect their work. I am proud to have been a long-time supporter of this valuable program and will continue to support its efforts in the future. Education continues to be one of my number one priorities."

These two leaders have been a source of support to the Torrington Family Resource Center by offering advocacy and information sharing to the program for many years. Representatives Cook and Willis have been leaders in early childhood, youth development issues, parenting supports including grandparents raising grandchildren and adult education/family literacy initiatives all of which encompass a Family Resource Center.

"I want to thank the Connecticut Family Resource Center Alliance, not only for this honor, but for their great work each and every day in our state and local communities," Rep. Roberta Willis (64th District) said. "I will continue to support their effort to provide families with young children opportunities to enhance their children's school readiness and encourage parents to be involved in their child's education. At a time when resources are limited and being challenged their work must be supported and protected."

The Torrington Family Resource Center is one of 74 Family Resource Centers statewide. Connecticut's Family Resource Centers provide comprehensive, integrated, community-based systems of family support and child development services to families who reside in the designated service area, regardless of income. Located in public school buildings, the model is based on the *Schools of the 21st Century* concept developed by Dr. Edward Zigler of Yale University. They provide a single point of entry to programs and services and link schools, families and communities.

The Torrington Family Resource Center is located at Vogel-Wetmore School and is a program of Education Connection, our local regional education service center. The FRC served over 300 families last year with various direct service programming.